

MAY GOELET TO WED ROXBURGHE

Engagement of the Charming New York Heiress to the Young English Duke Who Has Wooed Her for Years

SHE HAS BEN SOUGHT BY MANY MEN OF TITLE.

Said to Be the Richest Young Woman in Own Right in New York, Being Mistress of Forty Millions and More in Prospect.

Simultaneous announcement was made in this city, Newport and London today of the engagement of Miss May Goelet and the Duke of Roxburghe. The Duke is at Newport, the guest of Mrs. Ogden Goelet, his prospective mother-in-law.

This announcement settles the question of whom May Goelet is to marry. She has been reported engaged to more young men abroad and in the United States than any other of the great heiresses of New York. As far back as 1897 it was first said that she would marry the Duke of Roxburghe, who was then a typical figure of the youthful nobility in London. He had succeeded to his title in 1892.

Wooed by Many. But the engagement was not announced officially and Miss Goelet and her mother traveled far and wide through Europe, becoming known in all the gay capitals. At almost every place they visited some ampeunous nobleman found time to fall in love with the sweet-faced New York girl and make an attempt to win her. One after another these attempts were recorded and forgotten.

Occasionally the young Duke of Roxburghe would loom up in the running only to drop out again. A little over two years ago it was reported that he was engaged to Pauline Astor, eldest daughter of William Waldorf Astor. It is certain that he was paying sincere attentions to young Miss Astor.

May Goelet is the granddaughter of R. T. Wilson and the niece of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. Mrs. R. T. Wilson is renowned as the champion matchmaker of New York. She came here from the South unknown, just after the civil war, and succeeded in marrying her children into the richest families of the metropolis.

Mistress of Great Fortune. It was understood in the set in which May Goelet moved, even when she was a little girl, that her mother and grandmother had designed that she should marry a title. Consequently the young heiress of New York held aloof, although she grew up to be a most charming young person. It is said today that she is the richest girl in her own right in New York society. Her fortune is estimated at \$40,000,000 as it stands, and it is growing remarkably fast.

Miss Goelet was taken abroad early in life by her mother and most of her life has been spent in London and Paris. She was from London that the first engagement of this heiress was reported, years ago. It was said that she was pledged to marry the Duke of Manchester.

When word came to Ogden Goelet of the reported engagement there were strenuous times about the Goelet household. At No. 108 Fifth avenue. He flatly refused to sanction the match with the Duke of Manchester. Then came the information that the sensible-minded American girl had refused him. Following in rapid succession came the names of Prince Francis of Teck, Prince Henry of Orleans, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Viscount Crichton, and the Duke of Marlborough, all of whom she had refused.

Become Soldiers for Love. The story was current in London that Miss Goelet loved the Duke of Crichton, but wanted him to do something to prove himself worthy of her. He went to South Africa and all the world was told that his understanding was that if he could win the Victoria Cross he might have the pleasure of marrying Miss Goelet.

The Duke of Roxburghe also went to South Africa and fought the Boers. Apparently this was the turning point of his good fortune, for since his return he has been in high favor with Mrs. Goelet and her daughter, and noblemen anxious to marry the heiress have held more or less aloof.

The most notable exception was Prince Hohenzollern. He is aged and his record is not conducive to make Americans enthusiastic over the prospect of his alliance with an American girl, but he was persistent. The story was printed that he had employed a notorious German matrimonial agency to bring about the match. If he ever had a chance the disclosures about this matrimonial agency settled it.

Miss Goelet and her mother lived in London last season at Spencer House, which Mrs. Goelet leased in 1901 for five years. When the heiress returned to New York a few days ago and the Duke of Roxburghe was on the same ship, and when the Duke went to Newport as the guest of Mrs. Goelet, it was generally agreed that the announcement of the engagement could not be far off.

The Prospective Bridegroom. The Duke of Roxburghe is by no means a penniless nobleman. He is the fifth Duke of the line, and although experts question his right to the title, he stands extremely well in royal circles in England. His wife will be admitted at once to the inner circle, which will give her a great advantage over many other American girls who have married British noblemen.

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Prince Francis of Teck, brother of the Duchess of York.
Viscount Crichton.
Prince Henry of Orleans.
Capt. Oswald Ames, of the Horse Guards.
Prince Hohenzollern.
Craig Wadsworth, of New York, and
The successful suitor, the Duke of Roxburghe.

The body of Capt. Malcolm Rafferty, who led the charge of Company F of the Seventy-first Regiment up San Juan Hill, and died Aug. 16 at Port of Spain, Trinidad, reached New York today on the Grenada, docked at the foot of Sedgwick street, Brooklyn.

A delegation from Capt. Rafferty's old company was at the pier to take charge of the body, which was sent to the armory of the Seventy-first Regiment. The widow with her four-year-old son was met by John C. Kelly, her father, a brother and sister and other relatives. The meeting between the bereaved young woman and her relatives was most affecting. She was driven to the home of her father at Morris avenue and Kingsbridge road to await the funeral, which will be held from the Church of St. Ignace, Eighty-fourth street and Park avenue, to-morrow morning. The interment will be made in Woodlawn.

Capt. Rafferty will have a funeral befitting a hero. He was beloved by the Seventy-first Regiment, because on that day in Cuba when it appeared that the officers were unable to control the men, he jumped out of the ditch, yelled "Come on, P!" and went to the hill with the Rough Riders and the negro soldiers.